

The Legislature May be Expected to Revise Mrs. Rogers Sentence. Vermont has had Legislatures that would Undertake to Revise the Statutes of the Almighty

## BENNINGTON SECURITY COMP'Y

Accepts funds in trust, allowing 4 percent on same. Acts as agent in purchase and sale of stocks, bonds, real estate, etc. Manages estates, acting as executor, administrator, guardian, etc.

CAPITAL \$25,000  
SURPLUS \$ 5,000

### DIRECTORS:

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## Bennington County NATIONAL BANK

Capital \$100,000.

Meers, JOHN S. HOLDEN, President.  
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### Bennington, Vt.

Transact a general banking business, pays interest on certificates of deposit at the rate of 3 per cent if allowed to remain three months.

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## FIRST NAT'L BANK OF NO BENNINGTON

CAPITAL \$150,000  
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Most centrally located for country business and is always ready to receive new accounts.

It is one of the oldest and strongest Banks in Vermont, and transacts a general banking business.

J. G. McCULLOUGH, President.  
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Call And Give Your Orders For  
Nursery Stock, Garden and Farm Seeds, Ornamental Shrubbery, etc. Spring delivery.

C. Ainsworth,  
311 W Main St., Bennington, Vt.

### Notice.

Dec. 23rd, 1903.  
Headquarters Co. K. 1st Reg. V. N. G.  
The members of Co. K. will assemble for drill, at the Armory on Tuesday, January 5, 1904. Per order.  
R. C. Graves, Captain Com'd'g.

## NOTICE!

Bennington County Savings Bank.  
The annual meeting of the corporation of the Bennington County Savings Bank will be held at the office of said Bank in its bank building in Bennington, Vt., on the first Wednesday, (6th day) of January, A. D. 1904, at two o'clock, P. M., for the purpose of electing a board of trustees for the year ending and the transaction of any other business found necessary when met, especially to fill vacancies in the number of our directors and to alter and revise the by-laws.  
Dated at Bennington, Vt., Nov. 25, 1903. \$490

## NOTICE.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the First National Bank of Bennington, Vt. will be held at the banking rooms on Tuesday, Jan. 12, 1904, at 10 o'clock A. M., for the purpose of electing a board of directors for the ensuing year. J. A. GRAVES, Cashier.  
Bennington, Vt., Dec. 8, 1903.

## NO HOPE OF PEACE

Russia Will Not Agree to Japan's Proposals.

WAR IS NOW CERTAIN.

In the Meantime the U. S. Naval Authorities Will Keep Close Watch of Columbia.

LONDON, Jan. 2.—The secretary of state for foreign affairs, Lord Lansdowne, has informed one of the ambassadors here that he has practically given up all hope of peace in the far east. Baron Hayashi, the Japanese minister here, says he has been informed from Paris that Russia has decided not to agree to the Japanese proposals.

This is the first intimation any one here admits having received in regard to the Russian reply.

The minister said: "If my information from Paris is borne out by the wording of the Russian reply and if the Japanese government adheres to its present determination there seems to be small possibility of averting war."

"My information is not official, but in connection with information imparted to me by the British government it is probably only too correct."

"If Chancellor von Bulow's statement that Russia's reply will be framed in a manner intended to satisfy Japan turns out correct it will be better news than I have dared to hope for."

The British foreign office is unable to confirm or deny Baron Hayashi's information. The officials, however, say they are not surprised at the tenor of his advice.

The foreign office seems inclined to think that Russia will if possible avoid making a reply of any kind to the latest Japanese note.

At the embassies here the statement made by Baron Hayashi is regarded as being most grave, especially in view of the minister's statement that his information came from Paris and the fact that he permitted such information to become known at this critical stage.

### Russia's Official Denial.

ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 2.—The foreign office here has officially stated that nothing has been done in connection with a reply to Japan. The Japanese minister here is unable to confirm or deny the advice received from Paris by Baron Hayashi, the Japanese minister to Great Britain, that Russia had decided not to grant the Japanese proposals. He says an answer to those proposals has not yet been made.

### President's New Year Reception.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—No more imposing spectacle could be witnessed in a republic than that which was seen at the White House on the occasion of the president's New Year reception. The mansion was beautiful in its completed renovations, bedecked with the colors of the Christmas season, and a holiday humor beamed from the faces of the hundreds of guests. "A happy new year to you" was heard on every tongue as foreigners and Americans clasped hands and greeted one another. The American Beauty rose was conspicuous in the simple decorations. As the president and Mrs. Roosevelt and the members of the cabinet took their stand the members of the cabinet fell back and stood directly behind them in the bay window. The president was in genial humor. With a cordial hand clasp and a smile for each caller he gave all a New Year's greeting.

### Fire Destroyed Two Blocks.

ANSONIA, Conn., Jan. 2.—Two business blocks in the center of the city have been destroyed by fire, involving a loss estimated at \$75,000. The entire fire department was called out to cope with the blaze, which threatened at one time to sweep the entire business section. The burned buildings were a handsome block owned by Herman Rosenthal and a smaller block owned by George Hotchkiss. The loss on the Rosenthal block is about \$50,000. Fire was discovered in the jewelry store of H. Hirsch in the Rosenthal building, and before the firemen had arrived the whole front of the store had been blown across the street by an explosion, apparently of gas. The blaze enveloped the block and was not checked until the Rosenthal block and the Hotchkiss building just south of it had been destroyed. The origin of the fire is unknown.

### Bryan and Bennett's Will.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Jan. 2.—William J. Bryan will fight the attempt

of Mrs. Grace Imogene Bennett, widow of Philo S. Bennett, to have him removed as executor of Mr. Bennett's estate and has entered a demurrer to her complaint. As executor he has also brought suit in supplementary proceedings against himself and Mrs. Mary B. Bryan, his wife, to have construed those portions of the will vesting in them as trustees the distribution of certain trust funds. He seeks advice and protection of the court because of previous litigation.

Catskill Summer Home Destroyed. KINGSTON, N. Y., Jan. 2.—The summer residence of James Cruikshank of New York city in the Catskills near Slide mountain has been burned to the ground. The house was occupied by the Cruikshank family, who had come up from the city to spend New Year's day.

Governor Opened Charity Ball. ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 2.—Governor and Mrs. Odell opened the charity ball here last night, which has crowned one of the most brilliant social seasons in Albany in recent years. The ball was for the benefit of the Albany and Homeopathic hospitals.

### OTTO AHLMANN'S DEATH.

It Is Said He Took Station Island Bank's Bonds.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—In an effort to solve some of the mystery surrounding the suicide of Otto Ahlmann at the Alhambra hotel officials of the Bank of Staten Island, which was owned by Mr. Ahlmann's safe deposit box. It is believed that some papers may be found there that will shed light on what he did with the bank funds he is charged with stealing.

A. C. Judson, state bank examiner, and his two assistants worked all morning over the books of the wrecked bank, several of the officials aiding them.

"I have found the books of the bank to be in excellent condition," Mr. Judson said. "The only irregularity so far discovered is that bonds worth \$180,000 which were in Mr. Ahlmann's possession have not been found. It is possible that some of these may be found when Mr. Ahlmann's safe deposit box has been found, but I doubt it."

"The fact that he killed himself when a demand was made for the securities makes it apparent he could not produce them. The bonds were all high class and could have been turned into money at any time. We have not yet learned when the bonds were sold or to whom, but efforts will be made to have light shed on the subject."

Besides the financial trouble in which it is supposed Mr. Ahlmann found himself a further reason is advanced as a possible motive for his having taken his life. For some time he had been paying devoted attention to one of Staten Island's wealthiest and most beautiful young women, but his love was not returned.

No banking institution in Staten Island was rated higher than "Otto Ahlmann's bank," and no man in the island was more highly respected or implicitly trusted.

### Bethlehem Depot Burned.

BETHLEHEM, Pa., Jan. 2.—Fire has gutted and badly damaged the large Union depot of the Lehigh Valley and the Philadelphia and Reading railroads. The United States Express company removed safely all valuable packages and over \$200,000 in money to the Willbur bank. The railroad officials decline to furnish an estimate of the damage, but it will amount to many thousand dollars.

### Artist Prisoner Strangled Himself.

SALT LAKE CITY, Jan. 2.—Russell Griffith, a portrait artist, has committed suicide in his cell in the county jail. He first tried to sever the arteries in his wrists and throat with a key. Failing in this, he picked a quantity of wool from his blankets, with which he plugged up his nostrils, and then he stuffed his handkerchief down his throat and slowly strangled to death.

### Butcher Weyer Planned Invasion.

LONDON, Jan. 2.—General Weyer will shortly publish a book entitled, "My Military and Political Campaign in Cuba." Two interesting chapters will be headed "My Project For Landing in United States Territory" and "Reasons Why I Was Obligated to Abandon the Project."

### Sherman Estate Only \$3,000,000.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—Mrs. Elizabeth Sherman, mother of Mrs. Bradley Martin, left an estate of only \$3,000,000. The filing of the transfer tax report caused surprise, as it was supposed the property was worth \$20,000,000.

### General Corbin's New Year's Loves.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—Major General Henry C. Corbin, commander of the department of the east of the United States army, and Mrs. Corbin gave a reception on Governors Island.

Let's go to Lurie's

## SAYS THEY ALL LIED

Mrs. Rogers Pays Compliments to the Witnesses.

DOESN'T DENY GUILT

Interview With the Condemned Woman in Which She Talks Freely on the Case.

Mrs. Rogers and Leon Perham were taken today to Windsor by Sheriff Wilson and Deputy Sheriff Nash.

On the eve of her departure a reporter of the Banner had a half hour interview with Mrs. Rogers in her cell in the jail.

She does not now deny that she killed her husband but says that she never planned to kill him and if the truth were known "the one who laid the plans and schemed the most in the matter would not now be walking the streets, a free man."

Asked who she meant she said: "I have been convicted and am doing all the suffering and I will not try to get anybody else in trouble as they have tried to me. I wish no harm to anybody."

The Banner reporter told her of the marriage of Morris Knapp. She showed a good deal of indignation.

"To think," she said, of all I did for him only to have him get up on the stand and lie about me to save his own skin."

Asked why she did not make a clean breast of it and let those suffer who were hit, she said she did not want to get anybody into trouble and would not say anything at present but might tell the whole story when the case comes before the legislature.

"Morris Knapp's testimony was all lies she declared." "He knew I was a married woman the first time he saw me and teased me into things I never thought of until he suggested them."

The question was then asked directly "Did you kill Marcus Rogers?" "I am convicted of killing him and whatever I may say now would do me no good."

Leon Perham told a pack of lies, Morris Knapp lied, the Phillips lied, William Rogers lied and if I should tell the truth everybody would say I was lying too," she added spitefully. "The truth has not been told," she repeated. If it should be it would open peoples eyes in Bennington and I should not be going to Windsor with a rope hanging over me.

She said she dreaded going to Windsor and would rather stay in the jail here.

She confidently expects that the legislature will commute her sentence but says she is a little afraid it will not. She says she is unable to eat or sleep or keep her mind on anything. The impression she gave the reporter was that she is a stupid, ignorant woman, whose stupidity has been mistaken for nerve.

## ANOTHER TRY AT CLEMENT

Judge Wheeler Grants New Trial in Slander Case.

Burlington, Jan. 2.—A new trial in the action for slander brought by Samuel D. Wilson against Percival W. Clement, damages of \$50,000 being claimed, in which a verdict for defendant was returned at the October term, of the United States district court, at Rutland, has been granted by Judge H. H. Wheeler. The case will come up at the February term of the United States circuit court at Burlington.

A new trial was granted on the ground of the disqualification of jurors Hulet, of Salisbury, and Markham, of Proctor, as claimed by the counsel for the plaintiff, Powell and Powell, of this city, who are ready to try the case at once.

It was claimed that Hulet was a local campaign manager for the Clement governorship canvass and Markham was station agent at Proctor, and interested in Clement's candidacy.

## ELKS MAKE MERRY.

Enjoyed Banquet and Musical New Years Evening.

Bennington lodge of Elks watched the old year out to the inspiring strains of vocal and instrumental music Thursday evening. Over sixty were present and enjoyed a turkey supper at 9 o'clock. At 12 o'clock a toast was drunk to the new year and soon after the party broke up.

A pleasant feature of the evening was the presentation to the lodge by John E. Walsh of a framed picture of a part of the national convention of the order of Elks, which was held at Baltimore last summer and to which Mr. Walsh was a delegate. The picture is a flashlight photograph of several hundred Elks in the famous Ford's opera house at Washington.

## EVIDENCE IS ALL IN

The Moffat Case Will Go To The Jury Monday.

The trial of Mrs. Alice Moffat, accused of the poisoning of her husband is approaching its end. The case will be given to the jury Monday morning.

The prosecution rested Thursday afternoon and the defense completed its case Friday afternoon, court not adjourning for New Years day.

A great deal of conflicting evidence has been brought out. The testimony of Philander Moffat and of Joseph Mears has been discredited in many respects.

Mrs. Moffat, who was extremely nervous, has not been able to sit in the bar with her attorney since Thursday. States Attorney Shakesher made the opening argument for the state, arraying all the accusing circumstances and basing his statements upon the testimony of Joseph Mears.

Mr. Moloney made a brilliant speech in Mrs. Moffat's defense this morning. He tore large holes in the evidence of Joseph Mears and spoke of him as an entirely untruthful and unreliable fellow, fresh from Windsor states prison, whose assertions should be given no credence.

Mr. Batchelder closed for the state, making a strong argument. The jury's verdict depends upon their decision as to whether or not Mears told the truth.

The general belief around the court house seems to be that the jury will disagree.

## INTERESTING SUIT.

Charles Cooper Will Test Validity of Knitting Machine Patents.

A suit that will excite interest among knit goods manufacturers in this immediate section has been brought by Charles Cooper, manufacturer of knitting machines, against the Otis Knitting company of Ware, Mass., one of the largest knitting mill concerns in the country.

The suit is brought to recover damages to a large amount on account of the Otis company using what are known as the Lasher knitting machines on which Mr. Cooper claims there is an infringement of his patent.

The Lasher machines were made here until recently, when the company removed to Troy where they are now made. The claim is made that the Otis company has been using these machines for some time as an experiment with the expectation that if they turned out as satisfactory as it is claimed they would, the old machines in the mill should be replaced by the Lasher machines.

The suit is brought in the United States court.

## FREE TELEPHONES.

Company Will Give New Subscribers Three Months Service.

The N. E. F. & T. Co. is planning an extensive campaign, to start the 15th of the month. A house to house canvass of the village will be made for residence telephones.

All those who sign a contract for a year's telephone service between January 15 and February 15 will get 15 months service for 12 months pay.

The local exchange is able to handle a greater volume of business, and is taking this way to enlarge its list of subscribers which already numbers 202.

## GOODS WERE DRENCHED

Water Pipe Burst at the Drysdale Store.

STORE CLOSED TODAY.

Every Floor Suffered—Goods Will Be Sold at a Sacrifice Beginning Monday.

A water pipe burst on the upper floor of the Drysdale Store, Friday afternoon. It was discovered about 5 o'clock by John Meagher but it was some time before the leak was stopped and the goods on three floors were badly soaked.

The damage to the goods in the shoe and men's furnishing department was the heaviest and will amount to hundreds of dollars, with no insurance.

The store was closed at the time the break occurred and if Meagher had not happened in, the damage would have reached into the thousands, as the water was spreading in all directions.

Mr. Drysdale will close out the damaged stock of goods at a sacrifice. He was just preparing for his annual January mark down sale and will combine the two.

The damage ranges from goods slightly wet and almost as good as before to articles thoroughly soaked.

The store has been closed all day today for marking down the goods and the sale of the wet goods and the January mark down sale will begin Monday morning.

## NEW YEAR'S ANNIVERSARY

Weddings and Birthdays Celebrated On January First.

Friday was the 54 anniversary of the marriage of Hon. Cephas Williams on of the assistant judges of the county to Miss Harriet Benson. The date was also his birthday. The ceremony took place in the town of Winhall in which he was born, and where they have resided since. Five children are now living.

Jan. 1 was also the 80th birthday of Judge H. K. Fowler who was admitted to the Bennington county bar in June 1842 and who has been present at every term of court since. He is probably the oldest practicing lawyer in Vermont and attends to his business every day more or less.

The same day was the 50th anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Winthrop Smith who reside in the north portion of the town. They were married in Shaftsbury, but with the exception of a few years in the west have resided in Bennington.

New Years day is also the birthday of Charles M. Bliss, who has spent his life in studious research and is probably the best informed man on historical and general subjects in Bennington.

## LEAP YEAR DANCES.

Given By Young Ladies in Foresters' Hall This Week.

The young ladies of the town gave a Leap Year dance in Foresters' hall, New Year's night. About 100 couples attended.

Misses Mary Taylor, Dorothy Norton, Fanny Thatcher and Mary Walbridge received. The dance was chaperoned by Mrs. George F. Graves, Mrs. C. W. Thatcher, Mrs. E. E. Hart and Mrs. L. P. Norton. The Grand March which started promptly at 9 o'clock, was led by Tarrant Sibley and Miss Fanny Thatcher. Goldsmith's orchestra furnished the music.

## Electric Ointment.

Warrented cure for all soreness of the body, Colds, Coughs, Sore throat, Croup, Hooping cough, Itching Piles, and skin diseases.

Price 25 c. Chas Ainsworth, 311 W. Main St., Bennington, Vermont

## 13 AT TOWN FARM.

More People Receiving Aid From Town Than Usual.

There are now in the town house 13 persons who are being cared for by the town, about the usual number for this season of the year. Two of the number are quite feeble and the necessity of a hospital ward is quite evident. There are more people getting aid outside the farm than there has been for several previous years.

At the Christmas season every one received a small but an appropriate gift from postmaster Mathers, and those at the house had a specially prepared dinner. A new years dinner was also served to them.

## BOY WAS THE BURGLAR

Fifteen Year Old Pownal Lad Stole \$39.99.

Deputy sheriff Morrissey came here Thursday noon bringing with him Henry Beam, a 15 year old lad who was arrested in Stamford charged with robbing the house of Charles and Lucy Kemp of that village of \$40.

The boy has lived with the Kemp family several years. Two weeks ago he left there and went to live with A. E. Sanford.

Wednesday afternoon and evening Miss Lucy Kemp left the house with one in it, to attend a meeting of the Baptist Sewing society, she did not reach home until after 10 o'clock and on reaching there found that the house had been broken into and the sum of \$40 lacking just one penny, had been taken from the desk.

Sheriff Morrissey went to Sanford's house, questioning brought out the guilt of the boy and he broke down and cried. The money \$39 in bills and the rest in coins, tied in a handkerchief, was found between the bed ticks.

There was no preliminary hearing before a Stamford trial justice, as Sheriff Morrissey was directed by the states attorney whom he called up by telephone to bring the boy here. He will probably be tried next Monday.

## BIBLE STUDY.

Plan Adopted In Baptist Sunday School For Advancement.

The Sunday school of the Baptist church has adopted a plan of Bible study which promises to give scholars a better conception of the bible than any other system yet devised. The "outlines" require a bible text for preparation of the lesson and the helps give accounts of the latest discoveries of monuments in Babylon, Egypt and Palestine which confirm the history recorded in the bible or throw light upon its meaning.

These courses are graded from kindergarten to adult classes and the revision for 1904 incorporates the suggestions of teachers and superintendents for the past ten years. These lessons are published by the Bible Study Publishing company of Boston and are strictly interdenominational.

Scholarly and devotional comments by Prof. Frank K. Sanders of Yale university and Rev. G. Campbell Morgan of Northfield are published each week in the two leading Baptist papers of the East, The Watchman and The Ex-aminer. This attempt to better their work by the officers and teachers of the Baptist school should be cooperated in by all parents having children in the school.

The difficulties of successful Sunday school teaching are so great that the best work can be done only by the combined efforts of the home and the school.

## MORRIS KNAPP MARRIED

Notoriety In Rogers Case Did Not Stop Wedding.

Announcement is made of the marriage in Stillwater, N. Y. of Morris Knapp to Miss Alice Oliver of that village.

The marriage took place since the conviction of Mrs. Mary M. Rogers against whom Knapp was one of the leading witnesses, and who it was claimed that Mrs. Rogers intended to marry.

Mr. and Mrs. Knapp passed a portion of their honeymoon trip with his parents in this village.

## Weather Forecast.

Snow and warm tonight. Sunday, snow followed by clearing.